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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/04/2018
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SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MFA ON MUBARAK MEETING WITH ABBAS,
ABDULLAH

Classified By: ECPO Minister-Counselor William R. Stewart
for reasons 1.4 (b).

(C) MFA Spokesman and Senior Advisor Hossam Zaki told Minister Counselor April 3 that President Mubarak's April 2 meeting with PA President Mahmud Abbas and Jordan's King Abdullah had focused entirely on the peace process. "Abbas is where Yasser Arafat was in 2001," Zaki explained. Abbas senses that he is getting closer to a deal, he said, and the closer he gets, "the more he needs Egyptian political cover." MinCouns asked what exactly they had discussed; Zaki said "the need for a fair deal." Abbas will not just sign anything, Zaki said, but he still needs to coordinate closely with his friends -- especially Jordan and Egypt -- to make sure that any agreement is fair. The meeting was particularly timely, Zaki asserted, in view of President Bush's upcoming visit to the region and rumors that he planned to "sign a deal" at that time.
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